MONTEREY NEWS

November 2001
VOLUME XXXI · Number 11

The Town

Town News Available On-line

Monterey residents and other interested parties may now follow official town business on-line. The new web site may be found at monterey-ma.org. Available for review there will be agendas and minutes of Select Board meetings, Conservation Commission minutes, all posted notices, and other information the Town government makes available. The Town Office encourages Montereyans to log on and keep in touch with proceedings. As well, any Town commissions or ad hoc committees should feel free to give Bonnie any Town business they wish to post there. Any feedback or requests for more information may be directed to Bonnie at the Town Offices or by e-mail at monterey@berkshire.net.

Winter Transfer Station Hours

As of Sunday, October 28, when daylight savings time switches back to standard time, winter hours for the Monterey Transfer Station begin. Hours are Wednesdays and Saturdays 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. (unchanged), and Sundays 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Meeting with the BRTA

On October 1 at 7 p.m. Charles MacNeil, Administrator of the Berkshire Regional Transit Authority (BRTA) met with the Select Board to discuss details of Monterey's membership in BRTA. There is no cost to the Town to join and Mr. MacNeil outlined some potential benefits in the form of allowing access to additional funding sources. Currently

Glynis Oliver

New flag flying proudly on new flagpole in front of Town Hall (see pages 2 and 3).

Monterey has once-a-week transport for the elderly and disabled. Peter Brown outlined current and anticipated needs for elderly transport, and Fred Chapman was appointed Monterey's representative on the BRTA Advisory Board. It was further agreed that MacNeil will work with Jane Green of Southern Berkshire Elderly Transportation Corporation (SBETC) to facilitate the leveraging of additional funds.

Tyringham Road Paving to Be Completed

Tri-Town Paving, Inc. of Lee was unanimously awarded the bid for additional yardage of paving to complete the section of Tyringham Road under construction. At the date of this printing the base should be complete on all open areas of the road between the Tyringham town line and Heron Pond Park. This will leave only the stretch from Heron Pond Park to Peppermint Brook in need of resurfacing. All the drainage work on Tyringham Road has been completed in the past five or six years, and rebuilding the base and repaving has proceeded in sections as money has become available. The Town hopes to have the road completely resurfaced by the end of next year.

Town Hall Drainage Repaired

Troubles with seepage into the foundation at the Town Hall have been largely remedied by replacing the border of gravel skirting the building with pavement. The pavement was graded to ensure that water dripping off the building eaves is diverted so it runs off away from the building as opposed to being absorbed by the gravel and held against the foundation. The work was done by the Highway Department and seems to have put an end to the problem.

Public Hearing on Tax Rate

At 10:30 a.m. on October 22 there was a public hearing to obtain input into establishing the percentage of the local tax levy borne by each class of property for Fiscal Year 2002. Currently all five classifications use a factor of 1, so that all five classifications, residential, commercial, industrial, open space, and personal-property, pay the same rate, based on full evaluation.

As 94 percent of Monterey property is classified residential, the board agreed not to penalize the small amount of business property with a higher rate, and unanimously voted to retain the residential factor for all property. The tax rate for Fiscal Year 2002 will be set at $9.32, leaving it the same as last year. The most recent Town valuation is $177,994,177.

— Amy Goldfarb

New Flagpole Dedication at Town Hall

On September 29 at 11:00 a.m. a new flag and pole were dedicated at the Town Hall. This occurred just two weeks to the day after the Monterey Veterans Memorial Committee, at an urgent meeting, voted to purchase and install this flag.

Thanks to the influence of our own Arnie Hayes, we were able to acquire and install the flag in spite of the fact that these items were just about unavailable anywhere at this particular time in our nation.

The committee will also install a light, similar to the one at the Veterans Memorial Park, so that the flag will be beautifully illuminated during darkness.

The following townfolks participated in the brief ceremony:

- Dean Amidon: Master of Ceremonies;
- Mary Kate Jordan: prayer;
- Alan Dean: trumpet during the flag raising;
- Leroy Thorpe and Frank D'Amato: raising of the flag;
- Select Board Members Peter Brown and Muriel Lazzarini: remarks;
- Arnold Hayes, Command Sergeant Major, Ret.: message to all.

Donations to the Monterey Veterans Memorial are still needed to complete this installation and further work at the Memorial Park.

— Veterans Memorial Committee,
Dean P. Amidon, Chairman

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Thoughts on a New Flagpole

The need for a flagpole at the Monterey Town Hall has been on the list of things to do for some time. Many of us thought that it might be best done as a part of Phase II of Town Hall remodeling, and perhaps best done then by citizen contributions. The events of September 11 were instrumental in the proposal to erect and dedicate this essential symbol by the committee that had previously put together the Veterans Memorial at the intersection of Main and Blue Hill Roads. While the site in front of Town Hall may not rival the more serene installation to its west, this symbolic display of our nation's pride, dedication, and determination is no less significant. Just as flags were erected on the highway leading in and out of the village and the Meetinghouse bell was tolled on the Friday after the bombing, may we hope and pray that this new flag will remind us both of our loss and our resolution, and of our national pride for the United States of America and all that our nation represents to us and to the world.

I remember the pride and gratitude that I felt on that day of dedication for the committee that was responsible for the pole and flag; but also for the men and women who made this country a beacon of democracy and a land of freedom that must always remain vibrant and alive. I was reminded of the many who gave their lives that we might all enjoy the freedoms our democracy affords, but also of our need to continually defend our way of life from those who know no real freedom, whose lives are often lived in poverty and despair, who are guided and cajoled by madmen like those who deliberately and willfully destroyed the lives of more than five thousand innocents.

I write this, more than a month after the despicable terrorism that was inflicted on our entire nation, I take some pride in the attitude our national leaders have displayed. That, while unprepared for this enemy attack, not unlike the December 7, 1941, attack, our nation nonetheless appears to be calmly and resolutely striving to right the wrong, not only to bring the guilty to justice, but also to purge the threat of terrorism from our world. I'm not sure that all our stated goals can be met. I know it will be a very long process if it is to be satisfactorily done. We will need to be much more concerned with the welfare of huge numbers of people in foreign lands who live in utter poverty — people whom we don't know, who can't understand us, and whom we only remotely understand. But if we fail to feed and nurture them, if we fail to demonstrate a real concern for their welfare, will we be able to adequately demonstrate that our concern is for justice and peace for all God's people? (Isn't it interesting that we turn to God in a time of desperate need? And that it's all right to pray publicly but not in schools?)

My prayer is that we understand that God is our only hope and only real security. That there is no peace without justice for all. That we seek to build a just society and a just world of nations and peoples. That we be delivered from any smaller vision. That God shows us, as his humble subjects, what we need to do to accomplish his vision for our world.

—Peter Brown

Fran Amidon

Leroy Thorpe (l), Arnie Hayes, and Frank D'Amato raising new flag at dedication.

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All Boards Meeting on 'Pay as You Throw'

A "Pay as You Throw (PAYT)," or unit-based pricing solid waste program discussion for Monterey was held Tuesday, Oct. 9, at the quarterly All Town Boards meeting at Town Hall. Representatives of all Town Boards including the Selectmen attended. Also in attendance were Joseph Lambert from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Municipal Liaison for recycling programs to all municipalities in the state, and Jamie Cahillane of the Center for Ecological Technology (CET), Waste Management Specialist and Coordinator for the Southern Berkshire Solid Waste Management District.

An overall view was the Monterey Drop-off MSW & Recycling program. While it is a good program, improvement is needed in some areas. An underlying reason for this discussion stems from the Solid Waste/Transfer Station expenses exceeding the amount paid for Transfer Station permits. The current system of charging for a primary automobile sticker permit and not recording the person's name and address from auto registration has little controls, and secondary auto stickers are sold at a lesser cost and several can be purchased. The results are lost revenues. In addition, Monterey charges one of the lowest rates for Transfer Station access with unlimited disposal.

Mr. Lambert outlined how PAYT programs work. The Town covers the fixed cost of the waste disposal, recycling, and other programs through Transfer Station permits or tax revenue, and the residents pay the variable cost of solid waste disposal. Recycling processing would still be covered by revenues from taxes and Transfer Station permits, but garbage bags could cost from $1 to $3 depending on the cost for disposal for the Town. Recycling disposal is not free.

The majority of participants were not in favor of the PAYT system but discussed ways to improve the current Transfer Station budget and services. Mr. Lambert pointed out that the DEP is very concerned about mercury in the waste stream and that Monterey could improve collection options for this material. Monterey did apply for a grant to DEP this year to purchase a shed that could be used to house mercury products such as fluorescent light bulbs, mercury thermometers, dial-down thermostats, and button batteries.

Transfer Station improvements suggested include increasing the cost of permits; locating a permanent clothes/donation box; relocating the building from the top of the hill; setting up a Swap Shop for usable/reusable items; collecting fluorescent lamps and other mercury bearing waste; and increasing educational programs.

Other Town recycling improvements discussed were installing recycling bins at the Town Beach and collecting paper at the Post Office (bin with restrictive opening would be needed).

For more information about this meeting or any recycling/hazardous waste issue, contact Jamie Cahillane at jamiec@cetonline.org or 800-238-1221.

— Jamie Cahillane,
Waste Management Specialist, CET

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Lake Garfield Association Gavel Changes Hands

The Lake Garfield Association has grown from a small gathering on the Brewer Pond Dam under the guidance of Dean Amidon, pondering the weed problem in 1970, to an association with officers and a variety of active committees in 2001.

Judy Bach, our retiring president, lent her expertise to the association, culminating in a most successful event, the LakeFest. Her organization was apparent in that she wasn't present, due to David's surgery, and the program went like clockwork with an army of part-time and year-round workers. She established small volunteer teams: Finance, Esthetics, Government, Ecology, Beach, Recreation, Lake Management, and now LakeFest. They seriously attacked their duties and showed results. Judy has retired on her laurels with the assurance that the Lake Garfield Association has been left in good hands and will continue growing.

Jana Shepherd, retiring vice president following a year as president, has contributed steady support and constructive time these two years. She has been coming to Monterey for many years with her family to enjoy her cottage on the lake, one of the older ones.

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Carlo roMairone, treasurer for several years, has sold his Monterey cottage on the lake and is resigning his treasurer's job. He enjoyed the job as we enjoyed him and his reports given with his Italian inflection and hand motions. He used his cottage in all seasons, from the lake fun to skiing.

NEW OFFICERS: At the last L.G.A. meeting a nominating committee was appointed, consisting of Pat Edelstein, Len Simon, and Fran Amidon. They were instructed to choose a slate of officers, and to work with them until the Association voted on them in June of 2002. The job was easy, as all candidates were not only agreeable but enthusiastic.

- President elect: Kathy Frome (formerly Maye), year-round resident
- Vice President elect: Hy Rosen, part-time resident
- Secretary elect: Janet Cathcart, part-time resident
- Treasurer elect: Len Simon, year-round resident

Kathy Frome, better known as Maye, has been here for many years but not always in the limelight. She is moving in and working closely with Judy.

Hy Rosen and wife have fallen in love with Monterey, and spend a great deal of time here on the lake. They were one of the last enjoying it before the drawdown.

Janet Cathcart has been actively involved with the L.G.A. and has contributed suggestions and much time to it.

Len Simon, newly established here year-round, is thoroughly enjoying being involved.

The L.G.A. is for all of Monterey. The lake is important to so many for fishing, beaching, swimming, boating, and just looking. One of the outstanding accomplishments of the LakeFest was the inclusion of lots of Monterey folks, plus many businesses and organizations in town. The reception was warm and we are all looking forward to another next year.

— Fran Amidon

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Community Dinner Set for November 14

Get out your calendars and your forks . . .
Wednesday, November 14,
the monthly **Monterey** mouth-watering, scrumptious, sumptuous
Community Dinners
are about to begin.

Experience a culinary extravaganza — a gustatory celebration. In plain talk, it's yummmmm!. Those Monterey folks, they sure can cook! (Hey, my taste buds are still dreaming about the potluck dinner at LakeFest 2001.)

Toss a salad around with friends. Meet new meatballs. **Get to know your neighbor's mousse.**

Bring a delicious dish that serves 8 to10 people. We'll supply beverages. Please bring your own table settings.

Monthly dinners will be in the Meetinghouse basement at 6:00 p.m. on the following dates:

Thursday, December 13
Wednesday, January 9
Thursday, February 14
Wednesday, March 13
Thursday, April 11
Wednesday, May 8
Thursday, June 13

After dinner on November 14, **David McAllester** will entertain and enlighten us with a presentation of **Native American ways** related to the **harvest and gratitude** — a fitting theme for this dinner and these times. By 8:00 we'll be done and you can start looking forward to next month's Monterey Community Dinner.

— Hy Rosen

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What's in Store for the Store?

For over twenty years Joyce and I have owned the Monterey General Store; we have had the satisfaction of seeing it grow from a minimal merchandise line to an establishment with fine meats and baked goods offering products for a broad selection of daily needs. Thank you, Gale and Maynard, for these innovations.

The store has served well as a valuable community resource and a comfortable and even joyful eating and meeting place.

While through the years Joyce and I were able and willing to cover any shortfall of revenue, we are no longer in that position. Unfortunately, due to present market circumstances and a recent change in our own lives, we can no longer continue to be personally responsible for making up past and present debts. We hope you, our neighbors, will now step in and join us in maintaining this community amenity.

We need $50,000 in initial working capital to get us over this bleak period. What we propose is this: We would like ten investors to put $5,000 into either a Limited Partnership, or a straight 5-year loan at a competitive rate of interest payable each year. This loan and interest would also be redeemable through $200 of principal plus the interest worth of our Monterey Store Notes (with its 15 percent discount) each year. The balance of the principal of $4,000 plus the interest would be repayable at the end of the fifth year.

Once we are over this initial hump, Shelley and Joyce, the new team, plan to focus on what they see to be our strengths.

Here are some of the innovations planned: First, more emphasis on bakery, deli and meat items, and expansion of the seating area so that more customers can enjoy our fine sandwiches and bakery products. Thus the empty look of our erstwhile wine and liquor area — we plan to limit the variety, but will still sell some hard liquor and will continue with a limited but good wine selection and a full range of beer. And look for our soon to be held wine sale — a 25 percent discount on our wine inventory.

We have added soup and other surprise hot dishes to be enjoyed during the winter months. Our cooler will continue to be filled with dairy products, soda, and beer. The freezer will contain some new surprises. We are also trying to find an affordable way to upgrade our electrical service so that we can offer rotisserie-cooked free-range chickens with a variety of succulent seasonings hot, ready to take home for dinner.

As you may know the store is now open until 6 p.m. every night, except Sunday when it closes at noon. We are considering staying open later during the week. Our e-mail isn't up and running, as yet, but that is in the "to do plan" too. Anyone want to come up with a Web Page?

When you come for your paper please think about making a purchase as well. A croissant and coffee will make the paper read much better. When you come to eat, pick up something to take home. We are already running lunch specials and coming up with some new sandwich ideas.

AND PLEASE, remember to purchase our Monterey Store Notes, $85 now for $100 worth of merchandise at winter's end. That is a loan at 15 percent interest — not bad. And it really helps.

The past summer was a period of transition; Shelley Bynack has done a wonderful job, which she is still doing with all her heart. The store is a joy to come to for all of us.

The staff are largely responsible for this: endlessly innovative, ever cheerful, knuckler-downers-to-whatever-task-may-present-itself — Morgan; the "Deli-Boys," Davy (who has mastered the art of butchering, no easy task) and Todd (who as you know, makes a great sandwich); our great mimic and cashier nonpareil, David. And last but not least, Kay, our fine baker, whose mouth-watering baked goods are famous in these parts. The affection felt by the staff for one another is grand and much of what makes the store such a pleasant place to be.

As always, we welcome your interest and your thoughts, and will happily save you a trip into town. We need your support. And we thank you for your business from the bottom of our hearts.

— Lew Scheffey (with input from Joyce and Shelley)

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Self-Defense Classes for Women Begin Nov. 5

The Monterey Police Department is pleased to present a free series of self-defense education classes for women, the Rape Aggression Defense System, to teach realistic self-defense tactics and techniques. The RAD System is a comprehensive course for women, beginning with awareness, prevention, risk reduction, and avoidance, then progressing to the basics of hands-on defense training.

The course is taught by area police officers who are certified RAD Instructors. Students will be provided with a workbook/reference manual that outlines the entire physical defense program for reference and continuous growth. The Rape Aggression Defense System is dedicated to teaching women defensive concepts and techniques against various types of assault by utilizing easy, effective, and proven self-defense/martial arts tactics. Our system of realistic defense will provide a woman with the knowledge to make an educated decision about resistance.

Classes are open to women of all ages, but class size will be limited. There will be five three-hour classes, held once a week. Classes will start on Monday, November 5, 2001, at 6:00 p.m. at the Monterey Firehouse. If you are interested in this course there is a sign-up sheet at the Monterey Town Hall, or you can leave your name and phone number on the Monterey Police Department business line, (413) 644-9774.

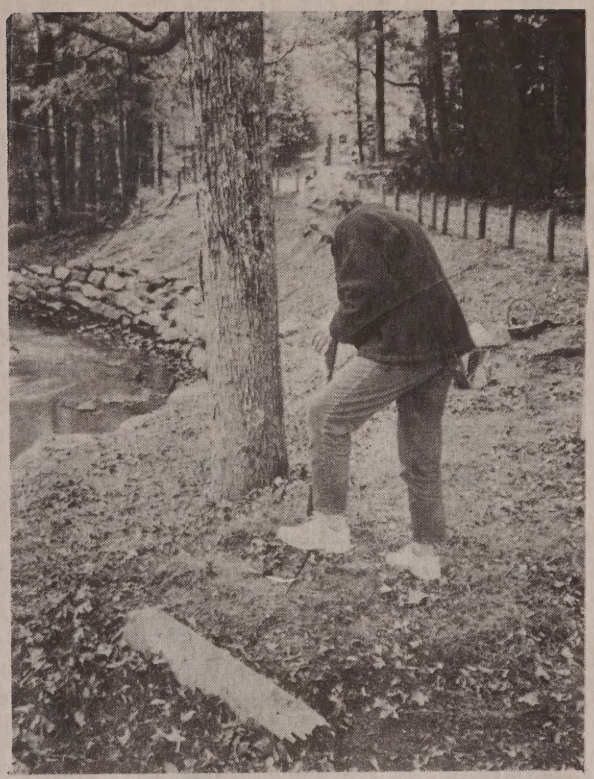
Bidwell House Activities

A busy and rewarding summer season at the Bidwell House ended on a very high note, with a large number of daily visitors, according to the new director, David Dashiell. Although the official house tours for the public are now over until next year, David is kindly willing to give more tours, by appointment, made reasonably in advance; just call ahead for availability, 528-6888.

The Bidwell House Board of Directors, Maria Carvainis President, have set the date for the festive Fall Fund-raising Party for Saturday, November 24, and invitations are also being sent out for the Christmas Party for members on Sunday, December 16. So please put these dates down on your calendar, in anticipation of receiving each announcement in the mail.

Additional activities are also being planned for anyone willing to volunteer to help restore the landscaping and grounds as designed and planted by Jack Hargis and David Brush. Come with your green thumb and sense of humor to join board members and trustees, spending part of a day with any tools, clippers, saws, loppers, or trimmers of your choice, to help clean out, clear out, or dig out certain areas around the house and fields. You will be heartily welcomed if you wish to join in by contributing your own expertise and muscle. Sunday, November 11, at 10 a.m. is planned for this fun and rewarding activity. Please call Jan Emmons (528-5985) so your participation can be planned into job and crew assignments that need to be worked out ahead.

— George and Jan Emmons



Fran Amidon

Jan Emmons has put in 500 bulbs on the riverbank along Bidwell Park Road. Lilies and wildflowers are to come. The hours and hours of work have been therapeutic in this time of world unrest.

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Monterey Meetinghouse Seeks Support

As you may have noticed over the past year, there have been many improvements made on the Meetinghouse. We have a renewed foundation, sealed from the weather. We have new carpeting in the sanctuary, new cushions on the pews, and a newly refinished fellowship hall in the basement. Thanks to Kathy Frome and her enthusiastic committee, we look forward to that being the site of the now reinstated community dinners, the first of which will be on November 14. This will be a monthly occasion that none in Monterey will want to miss!

We also have a new pastor. After a brief but blessed year with Heidi Haverkamp serving us, we are pleased to welcome Elizabeth Goodman to our church. Ms. Goodman, who goes by Liz, graduated with her master's degree in Divinity from Harvard University in 2000. This is her first call to a church, and she expects to be ordained early next year. Meanwhile, she and her husband, Jesse, have settled in Lenox, where they have bought their first home together and where they now live with their two cats and one puppy, Obie, who spends a lot of time in the pastor's study and who always loves a visitor. The office, now moved from the parsonage, is on the second floor of the Meetinghouse, overlooking the sanctuary. Please drop in!

In this year full of transitions, we have found ourselves especially grateful that the Meetinghouse is on a firm foundation. However, this would not be the case were it not for the generous financial contributions of so many in Monterey and beyond. We hope that all of you who have contributed to this are pleased with your investment. As well we hope that each of you feels a similar sense of belonging here, for while this building is the home of the United Church of Christ in Monterey and we the church members are its stewards, it can also be home to the people of Monterey, at the center of the town in spirit as it is physically.

To that end, we ask that you consider contributing to the church this year. Our regular financial obligations continue — salary, insurance, fuel oil, and utilities — and as the Meetinghouse becomes a more and more active place, as we anticipate, we can expect that these obligations will increase. Please make your check out payable to the Monterey United Church of Christ.

Thank you for your consideration.

— The U.C.C. Parish Council

Rep Rap

Recently, the Department of Education released the results of this year's MCAS exam. I am very proud of our students across the Commonwealth who rose to the challenge and scored a passing grade on the exam. As proud as I am of our students, I am equally disgusted with the DOE's use of $700,000 earmarked to advertise the MCAS.

Earlier this year I filed an amendment that would prohibit the DOE from using funds to market the MCAS, and I stand by that position. In that amendment, the DOE would not lose the $700,000, it simply would not be allowed to spend this exorbitant amount of money on advertising. This initiative was defeated despite the fact that these funds would better serve our students and teachers by providing concrete assistance to education in general and, in more specific terms, MCAS preparation.

Furthermore, with no state budget yet passed for this fiscal year and, therefore, no current budget for the DOE, it is confounding how the department has managed to begin the advertising campaign for the MCAS. Where the $700,000 is coming from is a mystery to me and I am outraged that the DOE has made advertising the MCAS its top priority. If in fact this money is available to the DOE, then using the funds to hire remedial tutors for struggling students would be a much better use. The $700,000 could also

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Senator Says

Our Common Ground

Many of our state forests and parks are being used as dumping grounds for a variety of unsightly and unsafe materials. Unfortunately, certain individuals are trashing our public spaces with items such as refrigerators, automobile parts, and construction debris. These careless actions pose health and environmental problems. They also detract from the natural experiences that many are seeking when they explore our state's treasured lands. Recent dumping incidents have occurred in Lanesboro (Balance Rock State Forest), Hancock (Pittsfield State Forest), and Washington (October Mountain State Forest). While there are laws prohibiting illegal dumping, we can do more to assist the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) and local officials in stopping these crimes.

In response to more pronounced instances of illegal dumping in the Commonwealth's forests and parks, I am proposing the Common Ground Initiative. This plan has received the support of DEM Commissioner Peter C. Webber, Berkshire County District Attorney Gerard D. Downing, Division of Fisheries and Wildlife Commissioner David Peters, State Police, and Environmental Police.

The Common Ground Initiative has several components. First, I am filing legislation that would increase the fines for dumping on state land. If enacted, this legislation would increase the fines for dumping on state-owned land to $5,500 for the first offense and $15,000 for additional offenses. Moreover, this legislation applies to all state-owned land, from areas held in conservation restrictions to state forests and parks.

Second, I will work to increase funding for DEM so that the agency will be better equipped to monitor and patrol our state parks and forests for illegal dumping. This funding will also assist in covering the costs associated with removing and disposing of waste.

Third, for the initiative to be successful, we must address the root of the problem and educate the public of our intentions to prosecute to fullest extent of the law these thoughtless actions. Our state parks and forests require more notification signs that will alert the public of the penalties for illegal dumping, and direct the public to report dumping incidents. Similarly, public service announcements (PSAs) will be used to increase awareness of the dumping problem and penalties.

Fourth, I have spoken with Berkshire County Sheriff Carmen C. Massimiano, Jr., about assembling cleanup crews from the Berkshire County House of Corrections. These supervised community service crews will help from time to time with the removal of debris. Additionally, several sportsmen's clubs, including the Berkshire County League of Sportsmen, have offered to support the Common Ground Initiative. Members from these groups will continue their efforts of assisting in park cleanups.

Fifth, apparently the higher costs of solid waste disposal have led some to use our state lands as private dumping grounds. I will work with state officials and local waste disposal facilities to establish so-called "Amnesty Days." On these days during the year, residents would be able to use a local or regional disposal facility for no charge, thereby discouraging the dumping of waste materials on state land. Likewise, I will encourage local officials to work with residents in identifying waste solutions for their particular communities.

I hope that you will support the goals of the Common Ground Initiative in your community. Please feel free to contact me if you would like more information.

— Senator Andrea F. Nuciforo, Jr.

be used to hire twelve to fourteen more teachers in order to reduce class sizes in our communities where learning is stalled due to a large volume of students.

I sent a letter to DOE Commissioner David Driscoll asking that he revisit the use of the department's funds. The education of our children should not be compromised because of bureaucratic policies. It is disingenuous to spend that kind of money promoting a test while both teachers and students work through this new policy.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact my full-time District Office at (413) 243-0289.

— Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins

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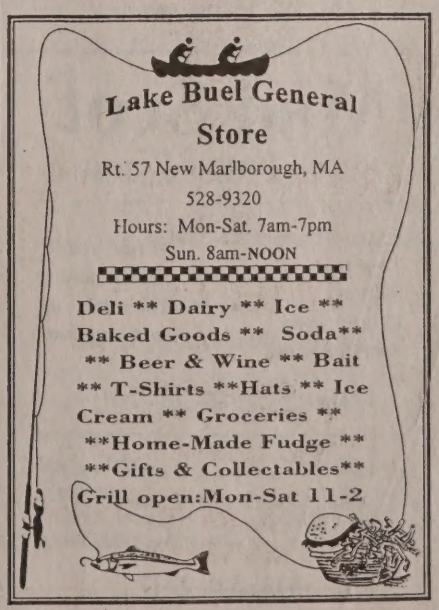
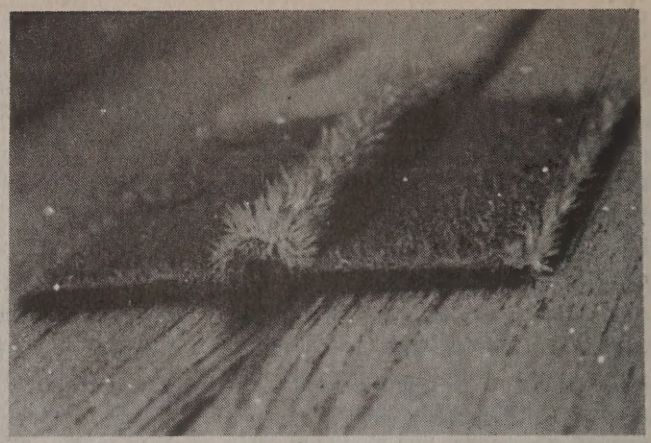


From the Meetinghouse

I first worshiped with the Monterey Church early in July, when a number of us gathered on the parsonage lawn as Heidi Haverkamp led a beautiful service under the blue sky. I was new to the Berkshires, having just moved three days before from Cambridge, where summer is more a series of unbearably hot days and sleepless nights, and an endless stream of traffic heading out of town, south toward "the Cape." I loved living in Cambridge, but less so during the summer, so this was a pleasant surprise, that we could comfortably gather outside toward the middle of the day and be so inspired by the beauty of our surroundings.

During our call to worship, rather than using a more traditional liturgical style, we each were encouraged to share our inspiration of that moment, and one person said, in response to the many unseen chirping birds, "The wisdom of the birds." And for a moment we all listened as the birds continued simply to do what birds do, simply yet so beautifully!

I now live in Lenox with my husband Jesse, in a small house on Housatonic Street. It is our first home, as we are newlyweds, married almost a year ago in the meetinghouse in New Marlborough. In our backyard is an old tin shed that surely was once used for storage but looks as if it hasn't been for a while. We first noticed it on our second day in the house, when a strange noise surrounded it, coming somehow from it. Whenever our backs were turned, whenever we were inside, there it would be again, rat-a-tat, a rapid beat. Then we would go out to investigate and it would stop. Finally we decided to watch out the back window of the kitchen as soon as we heard it again. And so we spotted a woodpecker sitting on the far peak of the little roof, pecking tin.



Glynis Oliver

"The wisdom of the birds," someone had said, and I immediately thought of our friend, the tinpecker. Is it possible that he believed himself to be pecking wood? Did he truly believe that he would find anything of value, anything to eat, in that flaking tin roof? "The wisdom of the birds," someone had said, and I wondered, what wisdom can I find in this fool?

The Hebrew prophet Hosea, speaking of hostility to the religion of Israel, quotes the enemies who proclaim, "The prophet is a fool; the man of the spirit is mad!" This was, of course, an accusation, but there is some truth in it. The prophet who speaks on behalf of God is a fool. One who is in this world but of the spirit is mad. Faith in a loving God in the face of so much suffering on Earth—on a grand scale as in war or famine, and on a smaller scale, as we each suffer individually, from transition and loss, from prejudice and cruelty, from sickness and aging, from loneliness and isolation—is foolishness. Why should we have faith in the God of love when we are witness to so much pain? Why should we hope for heaven when we are here on this troubled Earth?

I think of the faith of that woodpecker, the sort of foolish faith that overcomes all impossibilities, the sort of hope that finds grub in tin like manna in the wilderness. He must have been eating, for his strength seemed never to wane. And so to the wisdom of this foolish bird, to his faith that apparently overcame strong odds, may we all say, "Amen."

— Elizabeth Goodman

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Sculptor Catherine Bohrman Exhibit at Bradley Airport

Glynis Oliver

Frost on asparagus ferns in early morning sunlight, Rawson Brook Farm.

Catherine Leuchs Bohrman, daughter of Marie Leuchs and the late Fred Leuchs of Monterey, is one of two featured artists currently exhibiting in the State of Connecticut Commission on the Arts showcases at Bradley International Airport in Windsor Locks. Recently installed by curator Susan Docker, Catherine's exhibit is bronze, cast marble, and alabaster sculptures.

"Catherine Bohrman's compact abstractions in alabaster, bronze, and marble possess soft edges that belie the magnitude of their density," says Allen Hoffman, Legislative Liaison and Senior Program Associate for the Connecticut Commission on the Arts.

For the past year the artist has been working primarily on private commissions but was pleased to be able to exhibit ten of her sculptures with the Connecticut Commission on the Arts. Her work has been shown throughout Connecticut as well as the U.S. During the past several years she has exhibited and sold work at Santarella Museum and Gardens in Tyringham, C. W. Nelson Design Juried Exhibition in Sandisfield, and Waterside Gallery in West Stockbridge.

Ms. Bohrman, a resident of Cos Cob, Connecticut, is a Colleague of the National Sculpture Society, a life member of the Greenwich Art Society where she served as a vice president on its board for sixteen years, a member of the Uncommon Chiselers, a group of noted women sculptors, and a former member of the Old Greenwich Art Society and the New Canaan Society for the Arts. She has also been on the board of the Connecticut Pioneer Branch of the National League of American Pen Women for nine years, four of them as president. She often lectures on sculpting and has worked as a volunteer at Eastern Middle School (Arts Alive Program) in Riverside, Connecticut.

Catherine grew up in Monterey and studied mechanical engineering and art at Stanford University in California. She is the mother of two, and her husband is an executive with CNN. She is a great niece of sculptor Augustus Lukeman, best known for designing and carving the Confederate Memorial on Stone Mountain in Georgia. His former studio in Stockbridge, which is still in the family and is still in continual "artistic" use was also the studio for stained glass artisan, Fred Leuchs, Catherine's father.

The exhibition at Bradley International Airport is displayed just inside the entrance of Terminal A where the United and US Airways ticket counters are located. It will run until December 5. For more information please call the artist at (203) 629-8533 or the Connecticut Commission on the Arts at (860) 566-4770.

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Lightdreams Away

harvest moon
slips behind my lids
illuminating
the space between
prayer poem sleep

day rises
on a golden steed
satchelful of slumber treasures
'neath her cloak

shards of splintered sunlight
catch the corners of my eyes
entreating me to see
these symbol tales

lightdreams away
a pyre of souls
exposes the steeled edge
of life or death

our raw, jaded world
wraps itself around
a billion awkward moments
scratching the charred surface
of earth's shattered bones

what shall we become?

— Claudia Weldon

Reincarnation

we reap
a thousand loves
in space and soul
and die
to love again

— Claudia Weldon

Clapping for the Leaves
10/14/01

In September mist
a dirge
climbed
in apologetic silhouettes
voices muffled
in the cumulus...

Yet today
the sun remembered
Autumn was for song—
Leaves split
the wind,
a carmel & canary
choir
splashed
across the senses

Now in
walnut November
this
applause
inside our hands
must warm us
through
the snows.

— M. Hamilton

Autumn Rain

blankets of blessed rain
not so silent succor

liquid theatre
casting fall-en color

beautiful, bountiful play
of nature's grace

— Claudia Weldon

Hera

She was getting old and fat and hopeless
but youth still raged in her
shaking all the slender saplings
of her longing
and their leaves were ripping off
falling away as yellow sighs
into the privacy of her lonely nights.

Who, after all, could kiss Zeus as deeply
as she could in her time
or open to him laughing and rejoicing
until the last flashing moments of love
when the world sundered and burst into glory
and she, too, lay helpless and fruitful
under his shining eyes?

But Zeus had always been fickle
and had fertility on the brain
off busy stoking the fires in the
loins of men
or making a fool of himself
according to gossip
clowning as a bull, or a swan, or a shower of gold
all for some strumpeting daughters of earth.
And at his age!

What source was there left to appeal to?
Wives know too much, thought Hera,
ever to make gods of their husbands.

She turned resentfully into the laundromat
and its unfriendly neon lights
and pushed with her bursting hips
a young girl bodily away from the washing
machine.
Age before beauty!

Then she dumped all her jealous sheets
and his flaming underwear
into the swashing soapsuds
and stood by glaring, mesmerized,
through the dark glass of time
by the tumbling cosmic bubbles
of the universe
hoping against expectation
that this time
they would come out fresh and clean.

— A. O. Howell

Haiku

Underneath the ice
in the dog's bowl outdoors
sparkling golden leaves.

— Ann M. LaVallée

Indian Summer

I sat beside a mountain stream
That fell to a pool below;
The yellow leaves reflected there
Had turned the water gold.
New England asters grew quite near,
Their purple heads held high;
And across the valley, on another hill
A church spire touched the sky!
I lingered, truly awe-inspired
So tranquil was the scene . . .
Indian Summer had cast her spell
In a day just meant to dream!

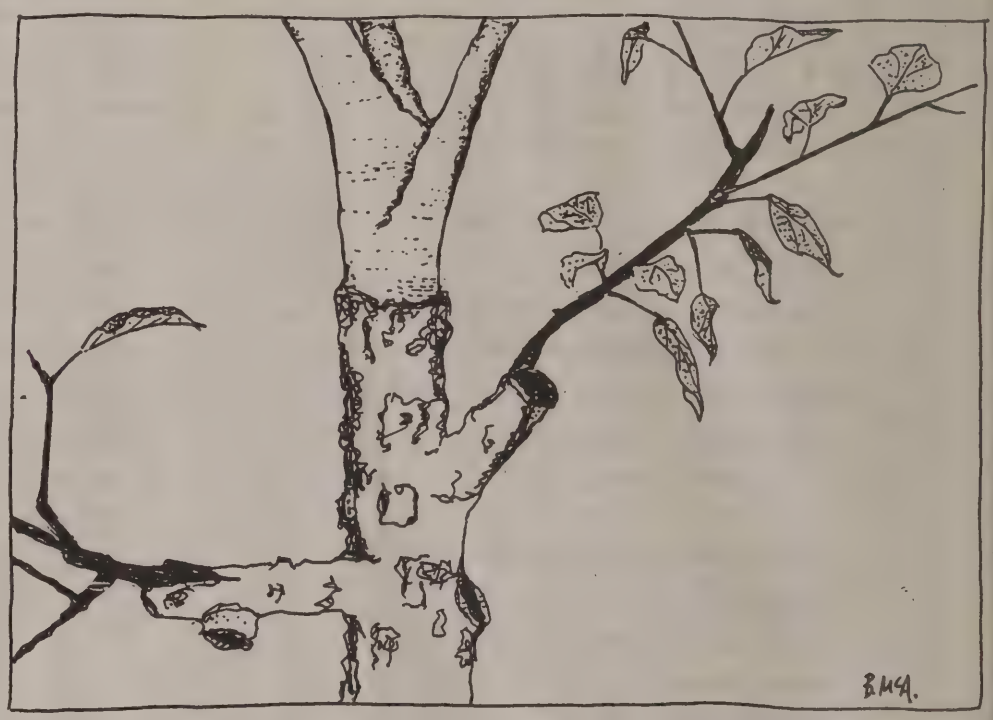
— Eleanor Kimberley

Apples and Lucky Stars

I got an e-mail last month urging me to wear a headscarf on October 8 as a way of expressing my support for and solidarity with my Afghan sisters. It seemed a good idea, so I had a look at my scarf collection and put one on. Right away I felt different from my normal old self. It was a nippy October day, the kind that gets into poetry anthologies and features pumpkins, bright blue skies, and apples. You can picture my personal cultural confusion as I headed out with my dog and frisbie that morning, wearing my headscarf.

I head out every morning pretty early to "throw toy" with Ruby and check the place. By this I mean just taking a reading on the day, wandering up or down the road, maybe visiting early-rising neighbors and relatives, maybe cruising through the garden, maybe inspecting the orchard. Back in late August I fell for a home-delivery offer on the *Berkshire Eagle*, so my routine has included picking up the paper in its plastic baggie at the end of the driveway.

On October 8, crisp and poetically New England, I was feeling so conspicuously unlike my Afghan sisters that I just about couldn't stand myself. Every day my newspaper brings it home to me how privileged I am to have a dog and a frisbie and a homeplace. I am close to falling over lately with the challenge of balancing my privilege, my luck. Add to my collection of unwieldy baggage the headscarf of October 8 and you have a person in trouble. I turned, that day, to apples.



September Stripes, from Marian Thomson, grafted onto a wild tree. Center graft is a few years old, side grafts more recent.

Instead of going visiting (I wasn't sure how I would introduce myself), I made for the orchard. This is a bit of south-facing slope with a sampler of apple varieties we have planted over the years. When we first came here it was all woods and as we cleared it we found there were already some apple trees growing there. These we pruned and treasured, sampling their wares in good years. In the end we wound up grafting various scions onto them, taking advantage of their hardy roots and trunks but making our own choices as to fruit. We also bought some little trees: Jonathan, Macoun, Liberty, Northern Spy, Golden Russet, Snow (Fameuse), Westfield-Seek-No-Further.

Anyone around here can tell you that this season of distress has also been one of supreme natural wonders. The weather, the foliage, the apples — it's like balancing the dog and the frisbie on the same day as the headscarf and the newspaper.

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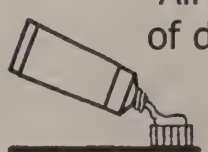

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You don't know whether to let the glories of New England in the fall cheer you up about war and terror or not. You think you know what people mean with their display of U.S. flags, but you have the feeling that it is a distinctly different thing from what your Afghan sisters will be getting as they watch the warplanes go over and then bury their kids.

All this confusion is good for me, I'm sure, but I welcome a break from it and apples help me. My newspaper comes in a flimsy plastic bag which can hold about six or eight apples. I slip the paper out of the bag, tuck it in my belt, and go through the orchard picking up drops. At first it was the September Stripes, growing all these years on branches grafted from twigs given to us long ago by Marian Thomson, whose father grafted them on her place on Sandisfield Road. These were summer apples, sweet plus tart, and not keepers. You ate them the day you got them. Now I am getting my bag full every day with the antique Macs, but they are nearly done and the Northern Spies have started. My canning jars are full of sauce so I have dusted off the screens and started drying my morning haul. It takes a very good year to fill up the jars, so it's been a while since I got out the screens. By mistake I put my first batch on an old copper screen and the slices of apple turned a lovely blue green in places. I tried to remember how much copper is good for you and how much kills you; in the end I sent those down the clivus (our composting toilet), so they will end up back in the orchard eventually.

Joe and I built a solar food dryer years ago, from plans in the *Mother Earth News*. It never worked well, but we followed the directions and made fiberglass screens which we have hung onto, so now my daily apple-slicing is rewarded with concentrated apple sweet/tartness, untainted. These apples grew here, experienced no long-distance hauling, no expenditure of polluting fossil fuels. Nobody made any money on them. I hang the screens close to the ceiling, and the apples give off their water (they are 84.4 percent water, I'm told) as we fire up the Glenwood in the kitchen. In two or three days they are ready to store.

Apples are enduring. Early Paleolithic people found wild apples growing in their woods in the Caucasus Mountains in west Asia 750,000 years ago, way before canning jars, frisbies, or bombers. I don't say the Paleolithic people wouldn't have hurled bombs at each other if they had had them available, I'm just saying I like to take a break now and then, put away the paper, and keep my eye on the apple.

This is my life, my home. I take off my headscarf at last and thank my lucky stars, but I wish those stars would beam over Afghanistan tonight because I do not need all these apples.

— Bonner J. McAllester

Simon Winchester to Read at Sandisfield Arts Center

On Saturday, November 24, at 8 p.m., Simon Winchester will read from a variety of his works, including the national best-seller *The Professor and the Madman: A Tale of Murder, Insanity, and the Making of the Oxford English Dictionary* and his newest book, *The Map that Changed the World*. The event takes place at the Sandisfield Arts Center on Hammertown Road off Route 57 in Sandisfield. Tickets are $20 at the door.

Author, journalist, and broadcaster, Winchester has worked as a foreign correspondent for most of his three-decade career. A widely traveled writer and adventurer, his work has appeared in *Harpers, The Smithsonian, Conde Nast Traveler* and *National Geographic*. He recently moved to Sandisfield and also has a home in the Western Isles of Scotland.

The Map that Changed the World is an account of trailblazing English geologist William Smith, who created in 1815 a geologic map of England that changed concepts of the Earth and its age.

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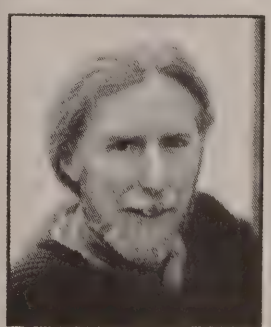

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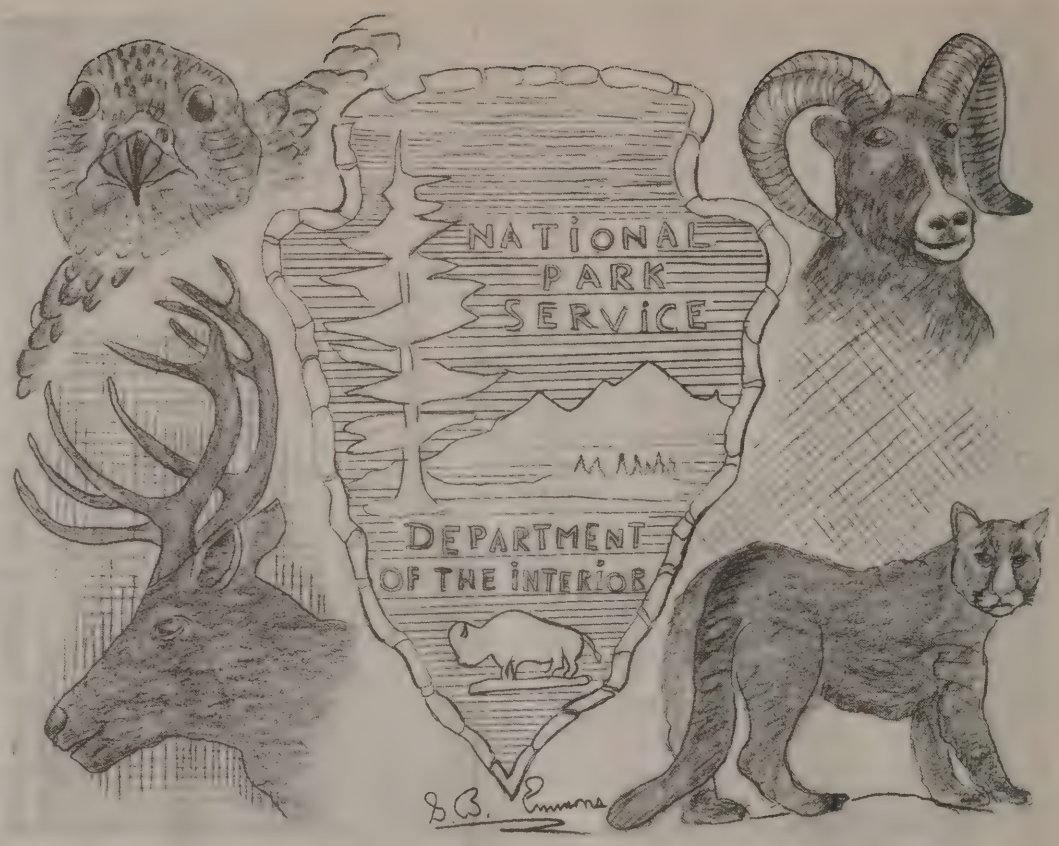
Lines into Shapes



The trip of a lifetime for Jan and me was our visit to Rocky Mountain National Park, thanks to her prince of a brother and his wife, who sent us round-trip airline tickets paid for by frequent flyer miles earned during their travels. They also invited us to spend a week with them in Estes Park, Colorado, from where, as official volunteer wildlife guides for the National Park Service, they took us daily on adventurous, scenic, and educational tours into the mountains.

Exactly one week after the day of infamy that laid so many lives, hopes, and dreams in the ashes of Ground Zero, the first leg of our journey took us past the smoking remains of the Twin Towers. Upon reaching Denver, we knew we were headed for higher ground, not just by being near Mile High Stadium and driving through Boulder, the seat of higher learning at the University of Colorado, but by seeing a purple mountain majesty coming into view in the distance, raising our horizon and our spirits—peaks with such descriptive names as Never Summer Mountain, Storm Peak (13,326 feet), Chief's Head Peak (13,579 feet), and Long's Peak (14,265 feet).

Over cocktails on the wraparound deck of their alpine-style home, best described as built on the edge of a ledge, with breathtaking vistas, some of them glacial, we watched a panoramic sunset, knowing that the days ahead would lead us along the roads of autumn, through groves of golden aspen that were beginning to quake at the prospect of winter. We talked about the early history of the overland trails and the pioneers, when the mountain passes would be shut down by the first snow, without much warning. Then it was nice to go inside for dinner.

The light of each new dawn during our stay was glorious and warming; for our entertainment, the view through the window, up a draw of ponderosa pine and junipers, revealed a bull elk with a magnificent rack and a bucolic harem of cows, some with calves spawned during the rut a year ago, feeding on sage-colored grass and ground cover. Our coffee mugs were often not even half empty when the jealously guarded small herd had moved off up the hill under the bull's chauvinistic bidding, and the four of us would be prompted to get in the sport utility in search of other species and spectacles, no less inspiring.

My wife's brother was also involved in organizing and promoting the annual "Lines into Shapes" art show in Estes Park, featuring creative abilities of a national cross section of craftsmen working in oil, acrylic, water, pastel-graphite, printmaking, photography, sculpture, wood, pottery-glass, and fiber. Seeing this effort in progress was appropriate, because it was artists such as Bierstadt that attracted visitors here, as well as writers and photographers such as wildlife guide Enos Mills, who generations

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ago led the way into a public awareness of wilderness phenomena. We were similarly inspired by previewing preparation for the exhibits, which were billed as a refreshing break from the turmoil of today's news.

The art center is located in Lower Stanley Village shopping center of Estes Park, named after the inventor of the Stanley Steamer motor cars which he used to transport his guests to a hotel he built here in 1909; today the hotel is a world-renowned pristine landmark. On many of the street corners were American flags, and at one intersection we saw our first bighorn sheep (not a real one; that would come later on the crags of Hallett's Peak) right there in town, a life-size realistic sculpture of a ram, his ewe, and their kid. Statues of indigenous big game animals in numerous vest-pocket parks authenticated a wilderness setting for the shops, stores, and museums. And right through the center of everything runs the sparkling clear Big Thompson River, where greenback cutthroat trout were spawning (at the autumnal equinox).

We wet a line or two, but they wouldn't bite, which made no difference because trout was on almost every menu of the restaurants nearby, as well as venison, buffalo burgers, and elk steaks. The next day we would try the Colorado River, on the other side of the Continental Divide, with the same results, but getting there and back was half the fun, as we rose through no less than seven ecosystems, and once above the lodgepole pine tree line, entered the austere tundra, where vegetation, due to the altitude, may grow as little as one centimeter a year. On the way, we had visited an Indian trading post–type store that was still pretty authentic, run until recently by a Charlie Eagle Feather, so I was ready to be shown the old Ute trail that crossed the Rockies to follow the game herds. The elk still use it, so it is about where it has been for hundreds of years, including stone walls the hunters placed to channel their prey within range of their bows and arrows.

At some of the trailheads, there were signs posted for a mountain lion watch. The only one we saw was a taxidermist's specimen at the Moraine Wildlife Museum and Center. It was impressive, especially when the park ranger told us how it got there. It had killed a bull elk by breaking its neck, and they both rolled down into a ravine, the 800-pound bull landing on the lion and pinning it down, so they both perished and were found later, a grim tale for this tenderfoot from Monterey, Mass. Then we went even higher, up what is called the near barrier of the Continental Divide. From there, the rivers on the east side eventually run into the Atlantic Ocean, and those like the Colorado on the west side wind up in the Pacific Ocean. It almost seemed that we were standing on the sturdy backbone of the North American continent, very rugged and immensely durable, possibly a proud symbol of our national pride and strength.

Far away in a distant land and a different culture lies the Kyber Pass I have read about in the tales of Rudyard Kipling. At that place and where we were standing, it is perhaps natural to remember the expression "East is East, and West is West, and never the twain shall meet." High overhead the sky was still blue, the horizons unlimited for our great nation; then even higher, I saw the thin wisp of a vapor trail, like the one that would take us home. We live in one world and take one day at a time. At sunset, lines turn into shapes, into shadows, and they into memories.

— George Emmons

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The Thread of the Story:
The Leaf Doesn't Fall Far from the Tree

By the time we gather in family and friendship groups to formally celebrate Thanksgiving, the fired-up reds, yellows, purples, persimmons, golds, chartreuses, and ambers that made this a peak "leaf season" will live only as they were pressed and saved in our memory books. Before the colors began in earnest, though, I spent a few days piecing a simple nine-patch pattern called "Sweet Gum Leaf."

About two dozen members of the Berkshire Quilt Guild did the same. Our instructions for the guild's 'Block of the Month' raffle for October had been simple: "Use any autumn colors for the leaf and stem; use yellow or gold for the background. Finished size, 12 inches." I had just chosen the fabric for my sweet gum leaf — a variegated burgundy and deep green, cast over with thin lines of ecru — when I had a surprise call from Dean Amidon. Would I be willing to offer a prayer at the dedication of the new flag and flagpole at the Monterey Town Hall?

That was part of why, when it was my turn to speak that morning, I looked up at the sky behind the still-mostly-green trees and began with, "We stand here beneath these spacious skies, anticipating amber waves of autumn leaves . . ." Of course, I was also aware that those skies above us were again, very newly, an arena for air travel. High, broad, bright blue and white skies, without a hint of gray. Too far in space and time, even then, for smoke from the tragedy in New York, and still too early for cranking up our woodstoves and furnaces.

So there we were, standing in front of Town Hall, gathered to dedicate a site

for a symbol which, whether at home or abroad, it's hard to be neutral about. Some of the drivers passing by honked their horns or waved, and I continued my prayer that whenever we see an American flag on display we use it as a reminder that red is a symbol of courage, as blue is the traditional color of faith.

Courage, someone once said, is the maturity of the heart, as faith is the maturity of the mind. We all have courage, more than any of us know until we need it. And we all have faith in something, or Something; someone, or Someone.

We are a nation with the faith and courage to be the melting pot for an infinity of colors, a multitude of creeds. With our heritage of, and commitment to, democracy, we have ample opportunity to rub up against each other's rough spots, especially in times of stress. So when we see an American flag, let's have the faith and courage to remember that the white of the alternate stripes and of the stars on that deep blue ground is the color of full spectrum light. It's a symbol of the diversity that is the strength of America. So I asked those of us gathered there in the open air to risk remembering all that.

That means to refuse to bow to terror, whether it arrives suddenly from the outside or has been secretly harbored within our hearts for years, or generations. To release it from our hearts, as trees release their leaves in season. It's time to honor those who lost their lives on September 11, the event that was our catalyst for being in front of Town Hall, in a very simple way. Let's get back to the daily business of honoring our diversity with the courage and the faith that requires of us.

By the way, the Berkshire Quilt Guild's next 'Block of the Month' challenge is to piece a quilt block we've designed ourselves. The stipulated colors are red, white, and blue. That's exactly what I mean. It's a pretty good way to get a jump start on a beautiful quilt. It's also a pretty good way to build a beautiful life, as a single citizen, and as a nation.

— MaryKate Jordan

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Beartown Mountain Bag Lady

To the Editor:

I have lived on Beartown Mountain Road (about two miles from the center of town) part time for the last five years and full time for the last two years. Over these years my morning walks to and from town with my dog have become increasingly litter infested. Instead of bemoaning the faulty gene in some human beings that allows them to throw bottles, wrappers, bags, soda and beer cans, and all variety of unmentionables onto our beautiful landscape, I'd like to make a modest plea to my lovely neighbors instead. The next time you take a walk, take a bag along. It doesn't have to be a big one. I use the plastic ones that groceries come in. And pick it up! It's good for your spine, your muscles, and your soul. And Shelley will even let you deposit the fruit of your labors in the dumpster behind the store. So many people have come up to me in my bagged walks and said what a good idea it is that I thought I'd pass it along.

—Barbara Bonner

Is War the Appropriate Response?

To the Editor:

Below is a letter sent to President Bush on September 23, before the bombing of Afghanistan began.

Dear President Bush:

It has been a very difficult time in our country since the recent terrorist attacks, and I would imagine that your position as president has been a challenging role to fill in light of these events. Your thoughtful consideration on how to respond to these attacks and your visit to NYC has been appreciated by many.

Last week I was with my friend's two-year-old child as she picked clover tops and goldenrod and put them into a folded cup. Her glee seemed a stark contrast, but a welcome distraction, from these painful events in the world. I long for her to keep this innocent delight in the world, through doing our part to create a world that is peaceful and safe for her to grow up in.

I believe that terrorism grows from pain, ignorance, and oppression. It would behoove us as a nation, and a world, to find ways to remedy these factors that breed such violent revolts. Relatively small groups of people seem to be responsible for the attacks, when compared to the number of innocent people who are just trying to live their lives in the Middle East. It seems that a war on terrorism may be like entering the jungles of Vietnam — there are no boundaries and no rules; it cannot be won through violence.

The pain inflicted on Americans will not be eradicated through bombing Afghanistan, or neighboring countries, and killing innocent people who want no part of terrorism. I fear that this act would only evoke hatred of Americans, and produce more acts of terrorism in future generations.

I believe our country is both powerful and wise. We can use our strength to approach this tragedy with our resources and open minds, rather than brute force. It is love and learning that will save all of us in the end. Let us join together with those who mourn and offer our deepest compassion and the promise to those who have died in this act (and countless others) that history need not repeat itself. This is the new Millennium; we can evolve beyond war, and demand justice without the needless shedding of blood.

I trust that you will take this plea into consideration, and go down in history as the first president to find a peaceful solution to a national tragedy.

— Melissa M. Hamilton

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Swann Lodge Plaque

To the Editor,

I'm tardy in expressing public gratitude for an event which culminated on "I Love Monterey Day," July 14. It was a ceremony recognizing my family's donation of land near Beartown State Forest's Swann Lodge in 1964, making that private parcel a part of the state forest which my father, Earle Stafford, served as Supervisor of the then-Swann Forest from 1921–1941, later incorporated into Beartown State Forest.

Upon a query from me some time earlier, Todd Frederick, Director of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management (DEM) approved and generously encouraged the dedication of a plaque noting our family gift at Swann Lodge on Brett Road. His approval went for implementation of the plaque placement to Acting Regional Director Paul Adams at DEM Region 5 in Pittsfield and Acting Beartown Supervisor Donna Stimpson at Beartown Headquarters at Blue Hill and Brett Roads, Monterey.

It was Supervisor Donna who suggested that the plaque dedication be publicized, thanks to the *Monterey News,* and take place on "I Love Monterey Day." She worked tirelessly and with great imagination to make the ceremony a special event, especially for our family. We are also enormously grateful to her, Paul Adams, and Jeanne Schnackenberg for their attendance and participation at the dedication on July 14. The event was very moving.

I also wish to thank two special people who were there that day at Swann Lodge on Brett Road. No one could have been more fitting visitors, for whose family Brett Road was named, than Marjorie Brett Day, with her husband, Bob, and Patricia Brett Thomson, and her husband, Lyman.

July 14 was an unusual day for my family in another way. It included a tour of a nearby area of exotic trees planted by my father decades ago. The exotic forest had been cleared by state people directed by Forester Conrad Ohman, who led the tour. It was another example of the contribution made to Monterey and the Berkshires by the activities of the Beartown State Forest team.

— Gordon Stafford

As You Sow, So Shall You Reap . . .

To the Editor:

The world has been deeply affected by the events of September 11 and all that has happened since. The military campaign, threats of additional terrorist attacks, anthrax, bio-warfare. The list goes on. Every day seems to bring a new concern. Just what is going on in our world? This is scary stuff! Something I heard as a child is stuck in my head and so I have no choice but to listen and contemplate the meaning. "As you sow, so shall you reap." These words are found in all religious and spiritual texts. A universal phrase. We all know these words and if asked, we would say we live by them as best we can. These words have been with us for generation after generation. They are on the top of the list with "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." Science has yet another way of saying the same thing: "For every action there is an equal and opposite reaction." Our reaction to the terrible events of September 11 and all that is now bubbling to the surface of life has me troubled and very concerned.

The idea that we are engaged in a "War against Terrorism" doesn't make any sense. Experts who study terrorism will tell you that the seeds of terrorism, its root causes, are a very complex mix of social issues like poverty, stress, tension, oppression, fear, the list goes on. The rhetoric from Washington is, "We want to root out terrorism." But can a highly trained military eliminate any of the root causes of terrorism? Does dropping a bomb eliminate stress, poverty, and violence? I am all for finding those responsible for the fanatical acts of September 11, but this military campaign, I fear, is not the answer. Such retaliation is as barbarous as the very act we are condemning — and may only cause an escalation of bloodshed on all sides.

Terrorism is brought to life by whipping up and energizing stress and tension, in society. Any and all our worst fears can come to life in this pressurized environment, and we are now seeing them emerge and show their ugly faces: anthrax in envelopes, possible use of biological weapons or crude nuclear devices . . . What is this all about? Everyone is on "high alert."

What seeds are we sowing? This all feels like a vicious circle, a circle that has been going on for generations. Have we not had enough of all of this? Our house has been on fire before. People have suffered and died. We rush to our houses of worship and read the scriptures. We pray and we comfort each other. We try to educate our children in the hope that someday all of this will not have to happen again. But it continues.

Why are we not listening and learning from our own advice? It's high time we addressed the root causes of all that is destructive and non-life-supporting. Our social fabric is being torn apart. An interesting article was published recently by researchers at Princeton University, entitled "Scientific Proof of Global Consciousness May be Emerging." The article talks about "group consciousness"

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and that a "group of people setting their intent and working in consciousness alone, can have an impact world wide." We are indeed all connected on this most fundamental level — Consciousness, the white screen behind the ever changing movie. This is the most basic level of life where we find what science calls the unified field. It unifies us all and is the home of all the laws of nature. From the smallest subatomic particle to the huge galaxies floating around in space (you and I are in there somewhere), these laws of nature govern all the diversity in the ever-expanding universe, and it is all accomplished without problems.

Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, founder of the TM (Transcendental Meditation) organization, has for fifty years been talking about just this very thing. Get a large enough group together in one place practicing TM and its advanced techniques, create waves of coherence in global (collective) consciousness, and change, dramatically, world consciousness. Hundreds of scientific studies have been done on Transcendental Meditation with stress reduction as a major focus. If we reduce and eliminate stress, life becomes healthier, more productive and less troubled. Our V.A. hospitals use TM to treat posttraumatic stress syndrome. Our own National Institute of Health has spent millions of dollars researching TM and has concluded that it is very effective in the treatment of high blood pressure, hypertension, and heart disease. Why? Because the root cause of all these problems is stress. More than fifty studies, published in leading peer-reviewed scientific journals, have documented the ability of group practice of Transcendental Meditation and its advanced techniques to reduce societal stress and violence, and to calm open warfare in war-torn areas. In the mid 1980s this approach was used to reduce violence in the Middle East, and resulted in an 80 percent drop in war fatalities and war-related injuries, according to articles published in the *Journal of Conflict Resolution* and other publications. It's time to utilize this technology of consciousness for peace and, once and for all, reduce world stress and tension, the root cause of all the destruction, ruin, and suffering in our world.

Glynis Oliver

For the price of one B-2 bomber we could end this age-old problem of war and suffering. There are efforts by some members of Congress to counter the current military action with a U.S. Department of Peace, funded at 1 percent of the military budget. This Department of Peace would be part of our military and use these proven technologies to prevent the outbreak of war. What a concept!

We can sow a new seed and reap the benefits of a life worthy to be called human and transform our planet Earth into more of a Heaven then a Hell. It is completely up to us and the governments of the world. History will record these times and wonder why on Earth it took so long for the human race to wake up to its true nature. Why did it take so long to find out that in darkness all you need to do is bring in light, and darkness is removed forever. Yes, history will record these times. Historians will shake their head and say what a waste.

I don't get it

— John Sellew

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Personal Notes

Birthday greetings to **Sudi Baker** and **Heather Ferrin** on the 2nd, **Emily McTavish** on the 8th, **Rebecca McTavish** on the 9th, **Lisa Smyle** on the 10th, **Andi Dunlop** on the 11th, **Mariah Olds** and **Kenny Pratt** on the 12th, **Cody Amstead** on the 18th, **Jenny Brown** and **Kirsten Quisenberry** on the 25th, **Kerry Snyder** on the 26th, and **Nicole Amidon** on the 28th. **Nick and Betty Wool** celebrate their anniversary on the lst, and **Barbara Bonner and Maurice Stiefel** on the 25th.

Nancy Fliesler has produced a documentary about her developmentally disabled sister and brother-in-law entitled *Lifestyles of the Poor and Unknown*. It has been shown at film festivals in Maine, Rhode Island, and Boston with upcoming showings in California and New Orleans. Nancy's parents, **Alan and Chris Fliesler,** have had a second home on Gould Road for over twenty years. Congratulations Nancy.

Ian Rodgers graduated July 29, 2001, from Coast Guard Basic Training in Cape May, New Jersey. A Fireman Apprentice, Ian is based in Kodiak, Alaska. On August 3, Ian and his sister Rachael and their friend Jeff left Monterey driving across the country to Seattle, Washington. Ian then flew to Juneau (his truck was shipped directly to Kodiak) to meet his ship, *Firebush,* which is a buoy tender. Now in dry-dock in Troutdale, Oregon (near Portland), the ship is being overhauled and will return to Kodiak around November 1. Ian is the son of **Bud and Cathy Rodgers** of Main Rd., Monterey and the brother of **Rachael** of Dennisville, New Jersey. Congratulations to you, too, Ian.

Thanks to the Flieslers and the Rodgers for sharing their news. If you have news send it along to POB 211 for inclusion in a future issue.

— Deborah Mielke

Remembering Grace Burke

Grace I. Burke, 92, of New Marlborough Road, died Friday, October 19, at Timberlyn Heights Nursing Home in Great Barrington, where she was a resident.

Born April 28, 1909, in Otis, she was the daughter of John and Abigail Cotton Kimberley. She attended West Otis schools and the former Searles High School. She was a member of the Monterey United Church of Christ.

She is survived by her husband of sixty-seven years, Claude "Tim" Burke of Monterey; a son, Russell Burke of Becket; a sister, Flora Kimberley Touponce of Great Barrington; five grandchildren, William, Michael, Cindy, Timothy, and Joseph; five great-grandchildren, Elizabeth, Victoria, Angelia, Nicholas-Michael, and Casey; and one great-great-grandchild, Jerlynn-Abigail.

She is predeceased by a grandson, Russell Burke, Jr., and two brothers, Claude and Frederick Kimberley.

Remembrances and reflections may be sent to finnerty@bcn.net.

Remembering Adam Brooks

Adam Dutcher Brooks, 19, died Monday, October 8, as the result of injuries from an automobile accident.

Born on December 9, 1981, in Torrington, Connecticut, he was the son of Timothy and Shelley L'Hommedieu Brooks. He attended Mt. Everett Regional High School and graduated in 2000 from Boulder Valley High School in Boulder, Colorado. At Mt. Everett he was on the wrestling and soccer teams.

Adam worked at the Monterey General Store as a clerk in the deli department. He loved the outdoors, fishing, and camping, and was an excellent artist who drew for himself.

Adam is survived by his mother and father, his sister, Noelle, and two brothers, Daniel and Joshua, all of Ashley Falls; his maternal grandparents, Charles and Nancy L'Hommedieu of Great Barrington; his paternal grandparents, Richard and Joan Brooks of Ashley Falls; and many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and cousins.

A service of remembrance was held on October 12 at the Sheffield Chapel. Memorial donations may be made to Southern Berkshire YMCA in care of Finnerty & Stevens Funeral Home, 426 Main St., Great Barrington, MA 01230. Remembrances, memories, and reflections for the Brooks family may also be sent to finnerty@bcn.net.

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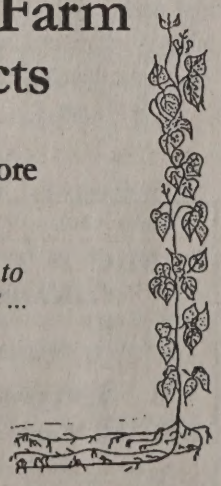

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Calendar

Every Thursday: People's Pantry, 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m., St. Peter's Parish, 16 Russell St., Great Barrington. Free food for the needy.

Thursday, November 1: Full Moon.

Saturday, November 3: Judith Davidoff in viola da gamba performance of "39 Strings," 8 p.m., Sandisfield Arts Center, Hammertown Rd. ar Rt. 57. Admission $5 at door. Information (413) 258-3309. See p. 17.

Saturday and Sunday, November 3 and 4: Family Network winter coat distribution, Schneider Youth Building, Bridge St., Great Barrington. Saturday, 9 a.m.–6 p.m.; Sunday, 9 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

Monday, November 5: Self-defense classes for women begin, sponsored by Monterey Police Dept., 6 p.m., Monterey Firehouse. See p. 7.

Thursday, November 8: Free blood pressure clinic, 2:30–3:30 p.m., Town Hall, administered by Visiting Nurses Assoc. **(Please note change in day and time.)**

Sunday, November 11: Volunteer work day on grounds at Bidwell House, 10 a.m., Bidwell House, Art School Road. Call Jan Emmons, 528-5985. See p. 7.

Monday, November 12: Town Offices, Library closed for observance of Veterans Day.

Wednesday, November 14: Community potluck dinner, 6 p.m., Meetinghouse basement. See p. 5. Everyone please come.

Friday, November 16: Monterey Food Co-op order distribution and pickup, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. in Meetinghouse basement.

Tuesday, November 20: Flu Shots, 9–11:30 a.m., Town Hall.

Saturday, November 24:

Square and contra dancing, 8:30–11:30 p.m., Sheffield Grange, Rt. 7, Sheffield, Mass. Music by Mountain Laurel, calling by Ralph Sweet. All dances are taught, beginners and children are welcome. Refreshments at intermission. Adults $5, children $2. Information (413) 528-9385.

Simon Winchester will read from a variety of his works, including *The Professor and the Madman: A Tale of Murder, Insanity, and the Making of the Oxford English Dictionary* and *The Map that Changed the World,* 8 p.m, Sandisfield Arts Center, Hammertown Road off Route 57. Tickets $20 at the door. See p. 15.

Friday, November 30: Full Moon (Blue Moon).

Flu Shots Available Nov. 20

Flu shots will be available at Town Hall on Tuesday, November 20, from 9 to 11:30 a.m. The shots are free of charge for Monterey residents.

Contributors

We thank the following people for their recent contributions. You are what keeps us going.

Kenn & Kate Bascer
MaryKate Jordan
Eve LaBelle
Sharon Wiles

The Observer

September26–October 25

High temp. (10/5)	76°
Low temp. (10/9,10,19,20)	29°
Avg. high temp.	65.7°
Avg. low temp.	40.0°
Avg. temp.	52.9°
Total rainfall	2.60"

Precipitation occurred on 8 days

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Personal Notes ..... Deborah Mielke
Mailing Labels ..... Joe Baker
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Contributions from local artists this month: George Emmons, p. 16; MaryKate Jordan, p. 18; Bonner McAllester, p. 14; Glynis Oliver, p. 4.

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